

Normalisierung



ART

UNTIL TUESDAY 18

AT A TIME WHEN BRIEF FLIRTATIONS WITH RIGHT WING POLITICS

appear to be turning into blind love affairs and little Nazi mutations are born all over the place, it seems wholly appropriate that we should be reminded (again) of the horrors of bonehead stupidity. Who better to do this than the master of photomontage, John Heartfield.

Born Helmut Herzfeld in Berlin 1891, Heartfield anglicised his name as a protest against German xenophobia. While some would argue that Hannah Hoch was the first to use photomontage, it is generally accepted that the Heartfield/George Grosz team were not only the first but also the most effective. His work for A-I-Z (Workers Illustrated News) provided a no holds barred attack on Hitler and National Social-

ism that the extreme right (with their equally extreme lack of talent) have never been able to rival.

This is the first major retrospective in Britain of Heartfield's work and consists of posters, book covers newspapers and magazines as well as original artwork. Also included in the ticket price will be a video showing of *Zygosis — John Heartfield and the Political Image*, a documentary by GORILLA TAPES where modern computer animation techniques enable Heartfield's images to come to life. Heartfield's appeal, though for years marginal, continues through various radical movements and has spawned such talents as Peter Kennard whose work can be seen in a complimentary exhibition, *The Cutting Edge*, alongside that of Steve Bell, *Spitting Image* and Art & Language (!).

WILLIAM HARVEY

John Heartfield 1891-1968 Barbican Art Gallery (Level 8) Until Oct 18. See Art listings for details.